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comparing different money-units estimated by their weight in pure metal in one tabular system, rather than the more complex method of calculation where two different units of weight are first employed, and then compared to effect the calculation of the par. The statistical tables will prove also of practical assistance in the calculation of exchange. But beyond this there is little to be said in favor of the book. As an explanation of exchange it is not to be compared to Goschen's "Theory of the Foreign Exchanges." As regards the expression of opinion on monetary theory in general, the criticisms of Jevons, Walker and others, the frequent animadversions on bi-metallism and the theory of value, the work is comparatively worthless. Whatever service the book may render will be along the line of statistical tables in the practical problems of comparing different currencies.

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Ordinamento degli Stati Liberi fuori d'Europa. Del DOTT. FRANCESCO RACIOPPI. Manuali Hoepli, CXII-CXIII. Pp. 372. Milano : Ulrico Hoepli, 1892.

This is a manual giving, in the most concise form, an abstract of the constitution and an outline of the governmental machinery of all constitutional governments outside of Europe. The list includes the United States, together with each separate State of the Union, all the States of Central and South America, Australia, Africa, Japan, in short it is absolutely complete. A note after each title gives the area, population, population per square kilometer, capital and its population, and the number of counties or other minor divisions of the state in question. The abstracts are admirably written in clear, easy Italian, and the information given seems to be exactly what one would naturally desire on the subject. No comment is indulged in. A previous number in the same series of manuals treats of the European States in like manner, thus completing the subject. It is a matter for regret that no equally good presentation of the subject can be found in English.

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The German Bundesrath: A Study in Comparative Constitutional Law. By JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON, Ph. D. Publications of the University of Pennsylvania. Political Economy and Public Law Series. Vol. III., No. 1. Pp. 68. Philadelphia, 1891.

This monograph is in two general respects an important contribution to the literature of political science. It is a careful study of a singularly instructive example of institutional evolution; and it constitutes a scholarly and lucid examination of the character of the body which the author justly regards as legally and historically the "centre and core" of the existing federal government of Germany.

The first of the three sections into which the paper is divided deals with the history of the attempts at national union in Germany since the fall of Napoleon, and particularly with the origin of the essential elements of the Bundesrath. The point of view of the author is the persistence of the monarchical principle. With the exception of the free cities, the States which compose the Empire are monarchies, as, of course, were the members of the preceding Federations of 1815 and 1867. "According to the theory of German constitutional law, the whole power of the State is vested in the monarch. The various functions of government find their common centre in his person;" though the present conception of the sovereign's authority "no longer includes the idea of unlimited right of self-determination in the exercise of it." But parliamentary government is unknown. The government is the prince and his immediate ministers; and to it belong the initiation and, so to speak, the residuum of power. In exact contrast with the American theory, the people or their representatives occupy a "negative" position. The constitution of the Empire, like the constitutions of its predecessors, is "interpenetrated by the monarchical idea." Yet the Empire is not a monarchy. The Bundesrath and not the Emperor is invested with the attributes of sovereignty; and the Bundesrath, as a body composed of the instructed representatives of the various members of the Empire, derives its leading characteristic in historical sequence from the Plenum, or full session of the Bundestag of the Federation of 1815, through the Bundesrath of the North German Federation.

In the second section, Dr. Robinson has treated the dual nature of the Bundesrath, as seen in its relation to the individual States and in its organization as a part of the constitutional machinery of the Empire. Several interesting topics are here briefly discussed in a very instructive manner. Such is the disputed question, as to whether "the *States* or their monarchs for them," are represented in the Bundesrath; the deliberative function of that body growing out of the flexibility of its "instructions;" and the anomalous position of the chancellor, or chief administrative officer of the Empire, who, by virtue of his office, is at the same time president of the Bundesrath and leading representative in it of Prussia, its most powerful member.

The last section contains an able analysis of the functions of the Bundesrath as an organ of the central government. These are classified as legislative, administrative, and judicial. "The jurisdiction in constitutional questions is not delegated to the courts, but so far as it is provided for at all, it is exercised by the Bundesrath." This jurisdiction not only extends to disputes arising between different members of the union, on appeal of one of the parties; but it includes arbitration "when difficulties of a constitutional character arise between the different factors of the State governments."

The administrative activity of the Bundesrath is of far-reaching significance, and especially the power of "oversight" or of providing remedies for defects in the execution of the imperial laws. But most interesting to the American student is its legislative capacity. This is true not only because the Bundesrath is "pre-eminently a legislative body;" but because, at first glance, its theoretical position in this regard appears to be strangely complex. By the constitution it is given legislative power equal, at least, to that of the Reichstag or representative assembly. Bills may originate in either body, though the Bundesrath is expected to take the lead in proposing measures; and no bill can become a law without its assent. Furthermore, it may enact administrative ordinances without reference to the Reichstag. Nevertheless, it "is not an upper house in the ordinary acceptance of the term." The German System is not a bi-cameral system. In its legislative capacity, as in other respects, the analogue of the Bundesrath is the prince and his cabinet. "The Reichstag alone in the imperial constitution possesses the attributes of a representative, deliberative body." Hence it is that the *sanction* or command which converts the bill into a law binding upon the citizen, is conferred by the Bundesrath and not by the Emperor; though in practice this sanction may not appear as a separate act, but "in conjunction with and indistinguishable from the simple approval of the contents of a bill."

Throughout, Dr. Robinson has given due consideration to the literature of his subject, with special regard for the treatises of Laband, Meyer, and Schulze. His monograph will prove an excellent guide to the American student of the German constitution; and by way of contrast, it will not fail to aid him in gaining a better understanding of the constitution of his own country. Moreover, it will teach him that it is not the English race alone whose institutions are living organisms, the result of centuries of thought, struggle, and compromise.

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